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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing of Derrick Jaamal Hayes, 21, a resident of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and a member of a cocaine and crack dealing ring operating in the Westmoreland County area to a mandatory minimum term of five years imprisonment by the Honorable Richard Williams, United States District Judge in Richmond.

Hayes was indicted April 22, 2003, by a federal grand jury in Richmond on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. On June 5, 2003, Hayes entered a guilty plea to a Criminal Information charging conspiracy to possess and distribute in excess of 5 grams of crack cocaine.

The case arose from a routine traffic stop conducted by a Robeson County, North Carolina, police officer. On February 15, 2003, defendant Donald Turner rented a gold-colored Chrysler Town and Country mini-van in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and thereafter picked up defendants Hayes, Proctor and Wade. The conspirators traveled from the Westmoreland County, Virginia, area to the Miami, Florida, area to purchase cocaine. Upon arriving in Florida, the conspirators stayed in a room at a Travel Lodge Motel which defendant Hayes rented in his name.

After their arrival in the Miami area, Wayne Proctor and Donald Turner met with their cocaine supplier and purchased cocaine. Proctor and Turner then returned to the hotel room, where they repackaged the cocaine into several individual bags, and cooked up a portion of the cocaine into crack cocaine to test its quality. Proctor pried open the wall of the rental vehicle and concealed the crack and powder cocaine behind the wall of the vehicle. The federal grand jury charged that the defendants then planned to transport the cocaine to Westmoreland County, for

processing into crack cocaine, and thereafter distribute it through the use of juveniles primarily in the Colonial Beach, Virginia area.

During the return trip, on February 18, 2003, a North Carolina police officer observed the defendants' vehicle being driven by Hayes who was not wearing a seatbelt, as required by law. The traffic stop led to a search of the vehicle and discovery of crack and powder cocaine secreted in the rental vehicle. Subsequently, the Virginia Division of Forensic Science determined the defendants were transporting 463.5 grams of cocaine and 16 grams of cocaine base, also known as crack.

Sentencing hearings have been scheduled for Proctor on October 2, 2003, Turner on October 2, 2003, and Wade on September 25, 2003, in Richmond Federal Court before United States District Judge Richard Williams.

The case is part of a new initiative in the U.S. Attorney's office called "Operation Far Fields". The initiative is designed to strengthen the relationship between rural counties and federal law enforcement. U. S. Attorney McNulty said: "By participating with local law enforcement agencies in rural areas, we can use powerful anti-crime tools against the worst violent criminals. This case is a great example of such partnerships."

Also announcing the sentencing today are Michael Foster, Supervisor, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Fredericksburg Field Office, Westmoreland County Commonwealth's Attorney Peggy Evans Garland, Westmoreland County Sheriff Charles W. Jackson, and Colonial Beach Police Chief Courtlandt A. Turner,

Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller is prosecuting the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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